

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

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# Memorandum

TO : Chief, FBIS

DATE: 10 February 1964

FROM : Chief, Panama Bureau, FBIS

SUBJECT: Monthly Progress Report - January, 1964

## I. GENERAL

- A. Operational problems arising out of the Panamanian crisis were resolved by reallocation of manpower, coverage, and work hours. The Bureau scheduled a seven-day week for the duration. A direct phone line to the Republic was installed to insure contact with local employees. Emergency billets for Panamanian employees were arranged should the border be closed by law or pressure of public opinion. By mid-month a routine evolved which could be continued indefinitely.
- B. Housing of staff employees proved a thorny problem. FBIS families and bachelors were evacuated first to emergency billets in Army gymnasiums, Teen clubs, or Army homes, then transferred to the Tivoli Hotel Guest House. FBIS agreed to keep its families in the Tivoli until families of other units, which could not use the Tivoli for security reasons, were relocated. Because it is excessively expensive for the Government, the Tivoli is not suitable for indefinite occupancy by families. At month end it was known the Panama Canal Company would make subpar quarters available for FBIS in early February. These consist of one-bedroom apartments for families with three children.
- C. FBIS privately-leased homes and apartments in the Republic were converted to Government leases from the date of evacuation. Leases are being retained for February but will be dropped thereafter in absence of a settlement.
- D. Staffers were placed in evacuation status from the day they left the Republic and draw the standard evacuation allowance. Upon acceptance of Zone housing of any standard, the allowance ceases and employees draw the 25 per cent "tropical differential".
- E. The ultimate solution of the housing problems shapes up as follows: FBIS will be assigned one and perhaps more of the houses under construction in Fort Clayton and slated for completion next fall; some of the better PanCanal houses families now occupy will be retained on long-term leases; some houses in the Republic will be obtained.

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- F. The technician's slot was dropped and the incumbent [ ] returned PCS to Santa Rosa with his family. This brought the Bureau to a hard-core staff for a seven-day operation. 50X1
- G. Plans to work out support agreements with the Embassy and USARSOUTH, approved by Headquarters, were shelved until the crisis passes.

## II. OPERATIONS

### A. Monitorial

1. During the crisis the Bureau covered 23 different Panamanian radio and TV stations and the SFN (Army) radio.
2. Special arrangements were made to cover a Colon radio station operated by Leftist Deputy Thelma King, which is not audible at the Bureau. ASA receives the station on the Atlantic side and relays it by phone to the Bureau.
3. Two Bureau monitorial production records were set: for one day, 10 January--24,000 words; for one month--275,000 words.

### B. Communications

Air Intelligence, Albrook AFB began receiving Bureau material through a patch at the Quarry Heights relay station rather than via the Pentagon. This should reduce requests for reruns which plagued the Bureau.

### C. Liaison

1. Special tape recordings of Panamanian broadcasts between 11-14 January were made for Under Secretary Vance.
2. Editors handled literally dozens of phone calls and special requests for information by local military and civilian consumers during the crisis period.

## III. ADMINISTRATION

- A. Teletypist [ ] received training as a cruising monitor. It may be possible to convert his slot into a cruising monitor position and reduce the teletype staff to three, giving the T/O better balance. 50X1
- B. A technician to replace [ ] is being recruited. 50X1

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C. Monitor/Trainee [redacted] exceptional ability as a translator is off-balanced by an exceptionally casual approach to hours and work assignments.

50X1



Attachments:

1. Classified Personnel Report
2. Foreign Personnel Report
3. Operations Attachment
4. Technical Attachment

50X1

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OPERATIONS ATTACHMENT - Panama Bureau - January 1964

1. Net publishable wordage wirefiled to Washington during January:

Panama	184,000
Peru	23,360
Colombia	16,590
Venezuela	11,790
Ecuador	11,230
Honduras	8,800
Costa Rica	6,060
Argentina	5,680
Bolivia	2,120
Uruguay	1,380
El Salvador	1,340
Guatemala	1,130
Brazil	870
Nicaragua	840
Mexico	<u>60</u>

Total 275,250

2. Weekly hours of voice coverage totaled 22.75.

TECHNICAL ATTACHMENT - Panama Bureau - January 1964

1. Reception: Deteriorating reception from central South America reduced effective coverage. Average reception was as follows: South America--fair to poor; Central America and Mexico--good to poor.
2. Performance: Bureau technicians provided strong support during the crisis. Long hours of duty with only short relief periods did not lessen the spirit of cooperation or materially lower the efficiency of performance. For example during a period of approximately three days four local stations were recorded both on magnetic tape and dicta-belt continuously during the time the stations were on the air with all pertinent material intercepted. Technical facilities performed normally throughout the crisis period. Relocation and wiring of Central Radio was sufficiently complete to carry the added load even with the four extra lines required for the tape recorders.
3. Projects: The office remodeling project is being estimated by an independent contractor with hopes of a lower cost can be obtained.
4. Outages: Outages totaled five hours, all on outgoing circuits.